



LADIES' VISITER.

"VIRTUE OUR PRESENT PEACE....OUR FUTURE PRIZE."

VOL. 1.]

[No. 8.

Wednesday, December 1, 1819.

FOR THE VISITER.

Grasmere---A Tale.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 99.)

The journey of our two friends was gloomy. Each continued to brood over his own particular feelings, and did not attempt to administer that consolation which both stood so much in need of. They had advanced considerably into Lancashire, when the attendants informed them they could proceed no further. One of the fore horses having thrown two of his shoes, and the nature of the road rendered it impossible to proceed in that state. Danville ordered them to leave him in the care of a servant and proceed on to the nearest Inn where they could procure post horses to continue their journey. They accordingly advanced about three miles further ; and there met with the desired accommodation. After some slight refreshment, they set forward. Nothing material occurred during the remainder of their journey, and the following evening brought them within view of the mansion of Sir Philip. Our two friends were now roused from the torpor which they had been in, and Danville expressed great anxiety respecting his uncle. The mansion was a large pile of building in the Gothic style, in which his ancestors had resided for several centuries : it stood in a spacious court, which was surrounded with a high wall flanked with turrets in the same style of architecture. Outside of the wall were evident traces of the ancient moat, though now

dry and full of verdure, having been converted into a shrubbery. The draw-bridge and huge port-cullus still retained their original importance. Their appearance perhaps was improving to the eye of a modern, as old Time had liberally covered them with ivy in the most fantastic manner. On one side of the castle ran a deep and rapid river, overhung with gloomy woods : behind was an extensive park well stocked with deer : in front lay his pleasure grounds and farm, all of which conveyed to the mind of the beholder the taste and feelings of its owner.—The carriage advanced towards the bridge through a noble avenue of venerable trees, which seemed to dispute the point of antiquity with the turrets of the castle. They reached the gate of the outer court, which an ancient and venerable porter, whitened with the snows of seventy winters, opened to receive them : They then proceeded across the court yard to the entrance hall, where they alighted, and were conducted by the domestic in waiting, who also bore honourable marks of age, to a parlour, till Danville's arrival could be announced to his uncle. The face of every one they saw, wore the deepest gloom. In a few minutes they were joined by Mr. Lawson, an amiable old gentleman and intimate friend of Sir Philip's and likewise his physician. Mr. Lawson addressed Danville, and said, he regretted he could not welcome him to the mansion of his uncle under happier circumstances ; “ but,” added he “ I entertain the most sanguine hopes that your presence, which he has expressed the greatest anxiety respecting, will produce a happy crisis in his disorder.” He then tendered his services to conduct Danville to his uncle : he thanked him, and silently followed to the chamber of his relation. When he advanced to the side of his bed, the old baronet essayed to hold out his hand towards him : Danville advanced and took the hand which was too weak to meet his own, and with the greatest reverence and affection, pressed it to his lips, while a copious flood of tears relieved his almost bursting heart. The worthy old man felt the full force of his affection, but extreme weakness and the sighs of his nephew combined, deprived him of the power of utterance ; but casting his eyes towards heaven, and pressing the hand of Danville, he seemed to pray for its blessing upon him. The physician now interfered and requested Danville to withdraw, not only to prevent the worst consequences to his uncle, who was not able to bear a continuation of the scene, but likewise to compose the evident distress of his own feelings and refresh himself after his fatiguing journey. Danville reluctantly assented.

During the night Sir Philip enjoyed a sweet and refreshing sleep of several hours, the first he had enjoyed from the commencement of his indisposition. The physician met Danville in the morning at the door of his uncle's bed room, and with a

smile upon his countenance, communicated the pleasing intelligence that there was now strong reason to hope for his ultimate recovery ; but that at present, he could not admit visitors to his patient. Danville remonstrated, but he was inflexible. This favourable change continued through the day, and in the evening Danville was admitted and had the happiness to see his uncle so far recovered as to be able to speak to him.—On the following day the physician permitted him to introduce his friend Thornton. Sir Philip, though very weak, gave him a kind welcome and expressed his satisfaction at seeing his dear nephew connected in friendship with one of whom he had heard the most flattering accounts. Thornton made suitable acknowledgments, after which they both withdrew. The old Baronet now rapidly recovered, and in a short time was able to sit up a few hours in each day in an adjoining room, which materially contributed to the rapid return of his health.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Letter, No. 3.

Written by a Lady residing at C—, to her Daughter in the city of P—.

September 20th, 1819.

DEAR DAUGHTER,

The first month of Autumn is now nearly at a close, and being habituated, in the course of meditation, to draw the comparison between the different stages of life and those of revolving years, the season reminds that a period of my life is at hand, which I may compare with the present : no season is, however, destitute of its advantages and pleasures. The time is approaching when the following extract, which I have made from Thompson, as worthy of perusal, will be applicable :

“ But see the fading many-coloured woods,
Shade deepening over shade, the country round
Imbrown ; a crowded umbrage, dusk and dun,
Of every hue, from wan declining green
To sooty dark. These now the lonesome Muse,
Low-whispering, lead into their leaf-strown walks,
And give the season in its latest view.
Meantime, light shadowing all, a sober calm
Fleeces unbounded ether ; whose least wave
Stands tremulous, uncertain where to turn
The gentle current : while illumined wide,
The dewy-skirted clouds imbibe the sun,
And through their lucid veil, his softened force
Shed o’er the peaceful world. Then is the time,
For those whom wisdom and whom Nature charm,
To steal themselves from the degenerate crowd,

And soar above this little scene of things ;
 To tread low-thoughted vice beneath their feet ;
 To soothe the throbbing passions into peace ;
 And woo lone Quiet in her silent walks."

The rapidity with which one season passes away and is succeeded by another, warns us of our temporary earthly existence, at the same time demonstrating that each period of life has its utility, and should be properly improved. The good husbandman will endeavour by his industry to prepare for that season in which vegetation ceases ; so ought we, by our industry, prudence and economy, to prepare for old age : Youth is our spring, in the which we ought properly to store the mind with useful knowledge : the summer and autumn of our days should be devoted to laying up a sufficiency for winter. How deplorable it is, that so many totally neglect these precautions, and spend the prime of life in frivolous amusements and vain show. Woman, at the creation, was designed as the help-mate of man, therefore, in the married state, much depends upon her properly acting as such ; and whilst single, it is necessary that she should endeavour to be useful to the indigent, and by her industry and economy, make like provision for the decline of life. My intention is by these remarks, to point out to you a proper course to adopt in youth, so that you may try, by proper improvement of time, as you advance in years, to increase in usefulness ; thereby rendering yourself beneficial to society and an ornament to our sex.

I received yours of the ——— ult. and was happy to find that you were well, and not disposed to launch forth into the prevailing fashions and customs, many of which, economy would dictate, should be dispensed with. Our ears being astounded from all quarters with the cry of "hard times" : from the tenor of your letter, one would scarcely suppose their pressure was felt in the city : for either sex foolishly to squander away in gew-gaws, glittering trappings, and riotous and luxurious living, that which has been given them for more noble and better purposes is exceedingly culpable : this brings to my recollection another passage from the author before quoted, which is as follows :

" Ah ! little think the gay, licentious proud,
 Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround ;
 They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
 And wanton, often cruel, riot waste ;
 Ah ! little think they, while they dance along,
 How many feel, this very moment, death,
 And all the sad variety of pain !
 How many sink in the devouring flood,
 Or more devouring flame ! How many bleed,
 By shameful variance betwixt Man and Man !

How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms,
 Shut from the common air, and common use
 Of their own limbs ! How many drink the cup
 Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
 Of misery !"

This profusion of waste, if properly applied, might be the means of relieving the pinching necessities of many, of cheering them in their wayward journey through life, of invigorating their desponding spirits, and of calling forth their exertions to industry. In order that you should be the more able to perform at times the injunctions of my last, you should practice economy : I would not advise that you should become parsimonious, nor that you should deny yourself the pleasure of participating in innocent recreations, such being necessary at your time of life ; but that you should be plain, neat and clean in your dress ; in your conversation chaste ; and in your temper mild and forgiving. Such a course will secure you the esteem of all your acquaintances, and will not be inconsistent with economy, to the practice of which I recommend your attention, bearing in mind that youth is the proper season for improvement, and that practices adopted at that period are most likely to be retained in a more advanced age.

The family are * * * * *
 they all join in love to you.

Adieu for the present—Your affectionate mother,

Lucinda.

Historical Scraps.

SELECTED FOR THE VISITER.

Josephus gives an account of the dreadful havoc made upon the Jews by fire and sword. He tells us of many stupendous prodigies in the air and on the earth. In the air, he says, a star hung over the city like a sword, and a comet appeared for the space of a year ; and when the people were assembled together at the passover, a light shone for half an hour round about the altar and the temple, at the 9th hour of the night as though it had been noon day. Soon after that festival, chariots of war appeared aloft in the air, and armed troops made swift marches along the clouds all over the country, and seemed to draw lines of circumvallation round about the cities. On earth, he says, the eastern gate of the inner temple, which was of brass, and of so immense a weight that 20 men could hardly shut it, seemed of its own accord to open about the 6th hour.

A mean countryman went about the city, night and day, crying "woe to Jerusalem !" and "woe to the temple !" and could not be restrained by scourging and other cruel usage, but finish-

ed his warnings to that devoted city by saying "wo to me also !" when instantly he was struck dead by a stone from a sling.

ZIPPORAH.

[SELECTED FOR THE VISITER.]

Gertrude Vonder Wart.

AN INSTANCE OF FEMALE FIDELITY.

Among those who were accused as accomplices in the assassination of the Emperor Albert, by John Swabis, was the Baron Vonder Wart, though according to the unanimous testimony of earlier and later historians, he had not taken any immediate part in the deed itself. He was bound alive to the wheel. His wife, Gertrude, did not forsake her unhappy husband even in his last moments, and she described those dreadful hours in the following letter to Margarethe Freianstein, which is inserted in a book published at Haarlem in 1818, under the following title, "GERTRUDE VONDER WART, or Fidelity till death ; a true history, of the 14th Century, by J. C. Appenzeller."

"I prayed under the scaffold on which my husband was fastened alive upon the wheel, and exhorted him to fortitude.—I then arose, and with thick pieces of wood, built myself a kind of steps, by means of which I could mount up to the wheel, laid myself upon his trembling limbs and head, and stroked the hair from his face, which the wind had blown all over it.—"I beseech you, leave me ! Oh, I beseech you," he exclaimed continually—"When day breaks, if you should be found here what would be your fate ; and what new misery will you bring upon me ? Oh God ! is it possible that thou canst still increase my sufferings."

"I will die with you—'tis for that I come, and no power shall force me from you," said I, and spread out my arms over him, and implored God for Rudolph's death.—The day broke slowly, when I saw many people in motion opposite us ; I replaced the thick pieces of wood where I had found them. It was the guard who had fled on my appearance, but had remained near the spot, and as it seemed, caused a report to be made of what had passed ; for at day-break all the people, men, women, and children, came flocking out of the town. Among these people I recognized the gaoler, who had given me up the preceding evening to Von Landenberg. The report must also have reached him, that I had been with my husband, for he approached me shaking his head, and said "Woman, this was not the intention when Landenberg fetched you yesterday."

As more people approached, I saw, also, several women of my acquaintance ; among them was the wife of the bailiff, Hugo Von Winterthur ; I saluted, and begged her intercession with her husband, that he might order the executioner to put an end

to my husband's cruel sufferings. "He dare not do any thing for me," sighed Wart upon the wheel, again moving his head at this moment, and looking down upon me with his swollen eyes—"he dare not do any thing ; the queen pronounced the sentence, and the bailiff must therefore obey ; otherwise I had well deserved of him that he should do me this last kindness."

Some persons brought me bread and confectionary, and offered me wine to refresh me, but I could take nothing ; for the tears that were shed, and the pity that animated every heart, and was kindly expressed, was to me the most agreeable refreshment. As it grew lighter, the number of people increased : I recognised also, the Sheriff Steiner Von Pfungen, with his two sons, Conrad and Datliken ; also a Madame Von Neftenbach, who was praying for us. The executioner came also ; then Lampucht, the confessor ; the first said with a sigh, "God have compassion with this unhappy man and comfort his soul !" the latter asked Rudolph if he would not yet confess ? Wart, with a dreadful exertion of all his strength, repeated the same words that he had called out to the queen before the tribunal at Bruck. The priest was silent.

All at once I heard a cry of "Make way !" and a troop of horsemen approached with their vizors down. The executioner kneeled, the priest laid his hand on his breast, the horsemen halted. Fathers and mothers held up their children in their arms, and the guard with their lances formed a circle, while the tallest of the knights raised himself in his stirrups, and said, "Whither are the crows flown that he still keeps his eyes ?" and this was duke Leopold. My heart ceased to beat when another knight said "Let him writhe as long as he has feeling ! but those people must be gone. Confounded wretches ! this sighing and crying makes me mad ! No pity must be shown here ;—and she here who increases the howling, who is she ? what does the woman want ? away with her !"—I now recognised the voice of the queen. It was Agnes in the dress and armour of a knight. I remarked immediately that it was a woman's voice, and it is certain that it was Agnes.

"It is Wart's wife !" I heard a third knight say—"Last night when the sentence was executed, we took her with us to Kyburg. We thought that in her despair she had leaped into the moat of the castle. We have been seeking her since this morning early. God what faithful love. Let her alone, nothing can be done with her."

I here recognised the mild tempered youth, Von Landenberg. How well did he now speak for me ! I could have fallen at his feet. "Well, Gertrude ! cried a fourth tone, "will you not yet take rational advice ? do not kill yourself ! save yourself for the world ! you will not repent of it." Who was this Margaretha ? I trembled : it was she who wanted me at Bruck, to forsake the

criminal Wart to his fate, and pass days of joy with her. Then I too could almost have exclaimed, "God this is too much ! cease." Agnes made a sign to an esquire to raise me up, and bring me away from the scaffold. He approached me, but I threw my arm round it, and implored my own and my husband's death, but in vain ! two men dragged me away. I besought assistance from Heaven : it was granted me. Von Landenberg (otherwise a faithful servant of Austria) once more ventured to speak for me. "Cease to humble her : such fidelity is not found on earth : angels in heaven must rejoice at it ; but it would be good if the people were driven away."

They let me loose again ; the horsemen departed ; tears flowed from Lamprecht's eyes ; he had acted strictly according to his duty, and executed the will of the Queen : he could now listen to the voice of nature, and weep with me. "I can hold out no longer, noble lady ! I am vanquished ! your name shall be mentioned with glory among the saints in heaven, for this world will forget it. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life," said he—gave me his hand and departed.

Every body now left the place except the executioner and the guard : evening came on, and at length silent night ; a stormy wind arose, and its howling joined with the loud and unceasing prayers which I put up to the Almighty. One of the guard now brought me a cloak to protect me against the wind because it was night ; but I got upon the wheel and spread it upon the naked and broken limbs of my husband ; the wind whistled through his hair, his lips were dry. I fetched him some water in my shoe, which was a refreshment to us both. I know not, my dearest Margaretha, how it was possible for me to live through such heart-breaking and cruel hours ! But I lay, as if guarded and wonderfully strengthened by God's Angels and the Saints, continually praying near the wheel on which my whole world reposed.

During this time my thoughts were with God. As often as a sigh broke from the breast of my Rudolph, it was a dagger in my heart. But I remember the holy Virgin, how she too had suffered under the cross of her son, and consoled myself with the hope that after a short time of suffering, the eternal joys of heaven would be my portion ; and this gave me courage to suffer : I knew, too, for whom I suffered, and this gave me strength in the combat, so that I endured to the very last moment.

Though Wart had at first so earnestly begged of me not to increase his agonies by my presence, yet he now thanked me as much for not having left him ; in my prayers to God, he found consolation and refreshment, and it was a comfort to his soul when I prayed.

How the last dreadful morning and noon were spent, permit me to pass over in silence. A few hours before evening, Ru-

dolph moved his head for the last time ; I raised myself up to him. He murmured very faintly, but with smiling love upon his lips : " Gertrude, this is fidelity till death," and expired.—On my knees, I thanked God for the grace which he had given me to remain faithful to the end.

In the fourth number of the *SKETCH BOOK*, there is an article headed "Rural Funerals," in which the author, after describing the rites used by the peasantry in England, proceeds with such sublime and beautiful sentiments, that we cannot pass over it without extracting the following paragraph ; though not because we think it the most beautiful, for, to distinguish between the sentiments of this writer, would be almost like telling which beam of the sun, when he shines in all his glory, is the brightest—We are sorry that we are not permitted to give the whole of this beautiful and interesting article.

"The sorrow of the dead is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced. Every other wound we seek to heal—Every other affliction to forget ; but this wound we consider it a duty to keep open—this affliction we cherish and brood over in solitude. Where is the mother that would willingly forget the infant that perished like a blossom from her arms, though every recollection is a pang ? Where is the child that would willingly forget the most tender of parents, though to remember be but to lament ? Who, even in the hour of agony, would forget the friend over whom he mourns ? Who even when the tomb is closing upon the remains of her he most loved, and he feels his heart, as it were, crushed in the closing of its portal, would accept consolation that was to be bought by forgetfulness ?—No, the love which survives the tomb is one of the noblest attributes of the soul. It has its woes, it has likewise its delights ; and when the overwhelming burst of grief is calmed into the gentle tear of recollection ; when the sudden anguish and the convulsive agony over the present ruins of all that we most loved, is softened away into pensive meditation on all that was in the days of its loveliness—who would root out such a sorrow from the heart ? Though it may sometimes throw a passing cloud even over the bright hour of gayety ; or spread a deep sadness over the hour of gloom ; yet who would exchange it even for the song of pleasure, or the burst of revelry ? No, there is a voice from the tomb sweeter than song. There is a recollection of the dead to which we turn even from the charms of the living. Oh the grave !—the grave !—It buries every error—covers every defect—extinguishes every resentment. From its peaceful bosom spring none but fond regrets and tender recollections. Who can look down upon the grave even of an enemy, and not feel a compunctious throb, that ever he should have warred with the poor handful of earth that lies mouldering before him !

But the grave of those we loved—what a place for meditation ! Then it is that we call up in long review the whole history of

virtue and gentleness, and the thousand endearments lavished upon us almost unheeded in the daily intercourse of intimacy ;—then it is that we dwell upon the tenderness, the solemn, awful tenderness of the parting scene—the bed of death, with all its stifled griefs, its noiseless attendance, its mute watchful assiduities—the last testimonies of expiring love—the feeble, fluttering, thrilling, oh ! how thrilling ! pressure of the hand—the last fond look of the glazing eye, turning upon us even from the threshold of existence—the faint, faltering accents struggling in death to give one more assurance of affection !”

FOR THE VISITER.

“ Familiar Histories may perhaps be made of greater use than the solemnities of professed morality, and convey the knowledge of Vice and Virtue, with more efficacy than axioms and definitions.”

JOHNSON.

In calculating the social virtues, and pursuing the means of acquiring a knowledge of human nature ; none, perhaps, deserves more attention, than an acquaintance with the heart.—The heart is expressed figuratively for all the affections and passions that actuate the mind and will ; and likewise, for many of the animal and rational principles of action. It discovers what men are, and, also, what they are likely to be, by the principles that govern them—and through its means, by studying all the various classes in society with a discriminating eye, is the best method of becoming acquainted with the beauties of virtue and the deformities of vice. But we close these remarks, and introduce our readers to Madame CONSTANCE ; a lady who had seen much of the world, and knew much more of mankind than generally falls to the lot of most females ; possessing a quick perception, correct observation, and a penetration that discovered the qualities of men and things, on the first interview, from a strict examination. She possessed a comprehensive mind, and an excellent sense, which enabled her to pursue that prudent plan of regulating her time and conduct, as answered the most salutary purposes, both as it regarded herself and others. Her good sense prevented her from assuming that pride and ostentation of her valuable endowments, which many other females of much more slender abilities, would have been vain enough to do. To no subject did she devote more of her time and attention, than in forming the minds, and cultivating the understandings of her youthful female acquaintances : she knew that youth was the proper season for laying the foundation, and implanting the seeds, of those private and social virtues, which, in their after-life, would be the source of so much felicity. She not only made them acquainted with the nature of virtue, but she, also, took the most proper means of inducing them to appreciate and pursue it. She exhibited before them the different characters of the past and the present ages, and corrected any erroneous inferences they might draw : She pol-

ished their taste, and enriched their understandings, not only with the studies necessary to females, but she took the proper method of chastening their imaginations and thoughts, and of ameliorating their dispositions : She not only prepared them to enjoy both present and future happiness, but she likewise fortified their minds to encounter the misfortunes and casualties, which they might meet with through life. All her precepts were governed by wisdom, and her admonitions were combined with mildness ; her manner exhibited an urbanity, the result of the suavity of her disposition.

Amongst her numerous female acquaintances, none devoted to her more of their time and attention, than *Amelia*, *Catharine*, and *Elizabeth*, three young ladies, attached to each other from their infancy by the ties of a tender and sincere friendship.—*Amelia* was a lively, rattling girl of seventeen ; spoke on every subject ; laughed at every thing, and made all around her partake of her gayety, her sprightliness, and her wit : the vivacity of her manner spread an air of cheerfulness wherever she appeared ; the sad, the dejected, the melancholy countenance, brightened into genial smiles ; and the sedate and grave aspect of wrinkled age, kindled up the smiles and joys of younger days in her company. The qualities of her heart were no less conspicuous and prepossessing : ardent and tender in her attachments ; candid and sincere in her expressions, and open and unreserved ; displaying to all around, an amenity of manners ; and exercising an active benevolence, rendered the more agreeable by being combined with a native vivacity and brilliancy of wit : She evinced the truth of this principle—that the gay and lively characters afford pleasure and admiration ; but it is only the melancholy and pensive that interests.

Catharine, one year older, was one of those sedate girls ; timid and reserved in her address ; placid and mild in her manners ; if not calculated to make an immediate impression, yet from a longer acquaintance, she made a more lasting one : cool and circumspect in her expressions ; investigating a subject with cautious judgment, and deliberate in her resolves : Her conduct and behaviour exhibited a gentleness, a complacency which rendered her interesting and amiable, but which, it must be confessed, sometimes gave place to a seriousness approaching to gravity or reservedness combined with austerity ; but with all, an air of dignity seemed to surround her, that rendered her an object of peculiar regard.

Elizabeth, now in her sixteenth year, inherited from nature, a fervour of sentiment, a warmth of disposition, which at times made her the subject of extatic fancy, bordering even on enthusiasm ; yet it seldom failed to call forth and unfold the tenderest emotions, and the mildest virtues of the soul : possessing a feeling heart to the utmost acuteness ; a sentiment glowing even

to transport : She displayed an imagination so exquisite as painted all its objects in the most vivid colours, and enhanced all its pleasures, by the sensibility she entertained, the brightness of her views, and the beauty of her conceptions.

Thus, it would appear, that these young ladies, so closely knit together by the ties of friendship, were of different if not opposite characters : if we only contrast the lively character of Amelia, the dignified grandeur of Catharine, and the enthusiastic or extatic powers of Elizabeth, we find that qualities which one did not so greatly exhibit, the other displayed more perspicuously.

[*To be continued.*]

EUGENIUS.

[FOR THE VISITER.]

I have thought that the laws and customs which existed amongst the ancient Romans at various periods, respecting Celibacy and Matrimony might be acceptable to many of the readers of the *Visiter*, which has induced me to give a brief account of some of the particulars.

It appears that laws were enacted, granting rewards to those who married, and imposing penalties on such as remained single,* notwithstanding which, a fondness for celibacy prevailed. In order to remedy this evil, the Censors, upon numbering the people, in the year 518 after the foundation of Rome, caused the young to swear that they would marry. In the time of Augustus, the fines and penalties against bachelor's were made more heavy. At a time when the inhabitants were reviewed by tribes, he gave to every father of a family, a sum equal to twenty-three dollars, twelve and a half cents for each child. Many of the knights were not satisfied with the penalties imposed on celibacy, and complained, notwithstanding which the emperor remained inflexible : He commanded that the whole order should present themselves before him ; then divided them into two bands, placing on one side the married and on the other the unmarried ; he was much offended at finding the latter superior in number, which caused him severely to reprimand them for neglecting the fulfillment of an ordinance deemed so essential to the welfare of the country. Those who in honorable wedlock, raised up citizens he praised, thus endeavouring to encourage matrimony. In enacting laws against celibacy during the republic, a circumstance somewhat singular took place, which was, that two of the Senators most in favour of the measure were single men.

Tacitus, in treating on this law, says that its objects were two fold, one to punish bachelors, the other to enrich the public treasury, to whose profit it confiscated collateral successions,

*These laws were confined to the male sex.

and the legacies which might be left to unmarried citizens. It procured many advantages to fathers of families.

Constantine, who appears to have been piously inclined, considered this law, as it then stood, contrary to the gospel, consequently he moderated some points, and abolished the penalties imposed on celibacy.

There was a law in existence among the Romans, called that of the twelve tables, whereby the Patricians and Plebians were prohibited intermarrying with each other ; this law being considered incompatible with the republic, was abrogated five years after its passage.

The consent of the father seems to have been necessary before solemnizing a marriage, particularly that of the bride ; the mother's consent being asked merely out of respect.

In marriages, formal ceremonies were gone through, at which the priests and augurs assisted ; a portion was generally agreed on, to secure which a deed was drawn and executed in the presence of witnesses, who set their seals to it. A curious circumstance, by way of confirming contracts, appears to have been customary amongst them, which is, that of breaking a straw, which was the case in instances of this kind : the bride and groom also made presents to each other, amongst which was a ring, given as a pledge of that friendship by which they were united, and both gave small presents to those who had favoured or negotiated their marriage. The marriage portion of the bride was secured upon the lands of her father, and made payable in three installments.

Valerius Maximus states, that in the first ages of the Roman republic, it frequently happened that the daughters of the greatest men brought nothing in marriage but the glory of their fathers. One of their heroes, Cn. Scipio, a celebrated Roman general, when he was commanding in Spain, solicited his recall in order that he might have his daughter married ; but the Senate, not willing that the republic should be deprived of his services, refused his request, and took upon themselves the marriage of his daughter, chose her a husband and assigned her a portion from the public treasury, equal to one hundred and one dollars and seventy-five cents. After this period, it appears that marriage portions became exorbitant, so much so, that the portion allowed the daughter of Scipio, would have been insufficient to purchase a mirror for the daughter of a Freedman.

The most ancient marriage-form amongst the Romans, was that established by Romulus, wherein the priest in the presence of ten witnesses pronounced certain words, and offered to the gods a sacrifice called *Far*, consisting of a mixture of salt, water and wheat flour of which the bride and groom ate to signify their union. Another mode was that of mutual purchase, wherein the bride and bride groom contracted in a formal manner by

giving each other some pieces of money.

All days and months were not considered by the Romans equally propitious for marriage : the Calends, Nones, and Ides were avoided ; the months of February, March and May were considered unfavourable, whilst the month of June was particularly approved of.

A description of the dress worn by the bride on the wedding-day, at a certain period, is also given : it was a long white robe, quite plain, her hair dishevelled, and intermixed with locks of wool, in imitation of the Vestals ; the extremities were tied in a javelin point, a flame coloured veil, with a crown of vervain, gathered by herself ; her shoes yellow, in form of pattens, higher at the heel than ordinary, for the purpose of making her appear tall. Industry, a thing very requisite at all times, was encouraged by them, as appears from the circumstance of a slave carrying behind the bride, as she went to the house of the bridegroom, a distaff furnished with wool, and a spindle, the intention of which was to remind her, that she was to spin and work for herself and family.

Superstition, it would seem, predominated more or less at all periods : so much so at one time, that the bride groom, in order to avert enchantments, caused his house to be decorated with festoons, garlands of flowers and leaves, and lists of woolen rubbed with the oil and fat of swine and wolves. For the purpose of indicating that the family was committed to the bride's charge, she was put in possession of the keys of the house, and to remind her of the necessity of working, she was seated on a sheepskin. In order to pass through the world smoothly, industry, in all ages, appears to have been requisite, consequently it is proper that, at the present day, no member of a family should remain idle.

A strange belief existed amongst the ancients : this was that every thing sprang from the two elements, fire and water, in consequence of which both the bride and groom were made to touch of each, implying that they would never abandon one another, though they should have no other subsistence.

After marriage, it was customary for the bridegroom to feast his relations and friends, as well as those of the bride and her attendants : these feasts were generally accompanied with music ; the guests sang an *Epithalamium* to the honour of the new-married couple : their apartment was adorned with statues representing such divinities as were thought to preside over marriage. From the year of Rome 457 until 521, no divorces appear to have taken place : afterwards they were tried in different ways and forms, and the result was that the general effect produced evil. After a divorce, a second marriage was never considered honorable. Polygamy was seldom practiced ; Mark Anthony is the only person cited by Plutarch, as having married

two wives. At the present day, Polygamy is considered a crime, and justly too, against which our own, as well as the divine laws, guard.

The writer submits the foregoing to candid readers to form their own opinions of the customs practiced at those periods : trusting that the detail given may not be unacceptable.

ANTIQUARIUS.



P O E T R Y .

MIFFLIN, November 20th, 1819.

To the Editor of the Ladies' Visiter.

SIR—If you think the enclosed rhapsody worthy of a place in the Ladies' Visiter, you will please to insert it for one of your youthful

SUBSCRIBERS.

How swift the moments fly away,
Time rolls along without delay ;
Man is to-day a flow'r in bloom,
Tomorrow faded, gone ere noon !
How deep our minds it should impress,
That death may soon our souls address,
Command us from this house of clay,
And say, on earth we cannot stay ;
Prepared or not, we must obey,
Death grants us mortals no delay.
If Virtue's ways are our delight,
To promis'd bliss we'll waft our flight,
The place where saints immortal go,
And sweetest blessings ever flow :
If Virtue is not our desire,
To endless woe we must retire ;
Our torture there shall never cease,
Nor shall we see a ray of peace.
In Virtue's paths, then, let us walk,
And of her ways delight to talk ;
Her pleasant roads all lead to bliss—
Our happiness depends on this. **MIFFLIN.**

SELECTED FOR THE VISITER.

The Maid of Toro.

BY WALTER SCOTT, ESQ.

O, low shone the sun on the fair lake of Toro,
And weak were the whispers that wav'd the dark wood,
All as a fair maiden, bewilder'd in sorrow,

Sorely sighed to the breezes and wept to the flood.
 "O, saints ! from the mansions of bliss lowly bending ;
 Sweet Virgin ! who hearest the suppliants cry ;
 Now grant my petition, in anguish ascending,
 My Henry restore, or let Eleanor die !"

All distant and faint were the sounds of the battle,
 With the breezes they rise, with the breezes they fail,
 Till the shout, and the groan, and the conflict's dread rattle,
 And the chace's wild clamour, came loading the gale.
 Breathless she gazed on the woodlands so dreary ;
 Slowly approaching a warrior was seen ;
 Life's ebbing tide marked his footsteps so weary,
 Cleft was his helmet, and woe was his mein.

"O, save thee, fair maid, for our armies are flying !
 O, save thee, fair maid, for thy guardian is low !
 Deadly cold on yon heath thy brave Henry is lying ;
 And fast through the woodland approaches the foe."
 Scarce could he falter the tidings of sorrow,
 And scarce could she hear them, benumb'd with despair:
 And when the sun sunk on the sweet lake of Toro,
 Forever he set to the brave and the fair.

[FOR THE VISITER.]

An Epigram.

Said Mira to Albert, "which flower's most fair ?
 "The varied *Tulip* or mild blushing *Rose* ?—
 "The one is the emblem of that which men tear,
 "Which we prize above riches—which sometimes we
 loose."

Said Albert, "the rose is the emblem of Virtue,
 "And of the bright dew that from heav'n falls, sips ;
 "'Tis sweet ; but fair Mira, let it not disconcert you,
 "When I tell you, I admire much more your *two lips*."

RURALIA.

If women would discourage immodest men, shame, if not
 principle, would amend them, and principle might take root in
 policy or convenience.

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